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NORTHWESTERN BAND OF THE SHOSHONE NATION

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Ellen Wheatley
Director of the Office of Child Care (OCC),
Mary E. Switzer Building
330 C St. SW, 4th floor
Washington, DC 20201

Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

The NWBSN Childcare program plans to use CRRSA funds to provide direct childcare services to all those who are deemed essential and frontline workers. This will occur without regard to the eligibility requirements, although an application will need to be filled out. Continued payments to providers will be ongoing regardless of child's attendance, unless a family decided to exit the program via personal choice. In the past, the program has always been open to any Native American, regardless of which Tribe the parent or child belonged to. Due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the global pandemic, the Tribe decided to open up enrollment into the program to even those who are not Native American in an effort to assist essential and frontline workers. The Tribe is happy to take on the administrative burden associated with the increased provider count to make this accommodation.

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

The Tribe plans to use CRRSA funds to provide resources, supplies, and some technical assistance to childcare providers to support implementation of health and safety practices and policies. The Tribe strives to follow the guidance from state and local health departments as well as from the CDC. Specifically, our program will be providing child care providers laptops & printers to help lighten the burden of home schooling children due to school closures, UV sanitization boxes, Personal Protective Equipment items, cleaning supplies, and help with internet access when applicable.

Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

The Tribe plans to use CRRSA funds to support our partner childcare provider's pay for the increased operating expense that has occurred as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. During 2020, the Tribe on two separate occasions made mini-grant payments to providers to help cover the increased cost of operating during the pandemic. This was done with Covid-19 funds from the previous allocation that the Tribe received. The Tribe wishes to implement these mini-grants again during 2021 in order to help providers upgrade current equipment, raise payment rates, and assist with other possible cost burdens related to the pandemic.

Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

Any new provider would be assisted in the same manner as if they had been enrolled with our program since the beginning of the COVID epidemic, as this is an ongoing crisis. CRRSA funding would be distributed equally, but, could vary depending on the amount of providers added to the program at any given point.

Other

In addition to the items mentioned above, the Tribe plans to use a portion of CRRSA childcare funds to distribute cleaning supplies to families for sanitizing before and after care in the car, tribal culture kits for providers and children. The Tribe also plans to provide emergency food kits, emergency supply backpacks, meat box allotments, and possible COVID testing supplies once they become available and if it is feasible to do so.

/s/

Dennis Alex

Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation Chairman